

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor(s) : Tatsuo Yokoi et al.  
Appln. Serial No. : 10/573,002  
Filed : March 20, 2006  
Entitled : HOT ROLLED STEEL SHEET FOR PROCESSING  
AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THE SAME  
Group Art Unit : 1775  
Examiner : Michael E. Lavilla  
Confirmation No. : 4548

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

SIR:

This paper is filed in response to the Restriction Requirement dated July 27, 2007. Initially, please consider the arguments as set forth below.

I. **INTRODUCTION**

Claims 11-20 are under consideration in the present application.

II. **FIRST RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that certain groups of claims of above-identified application are allegedly distinct from one another. For such reason, the Examiner believes that the restriction of claims is proper, and now requires Applicants to elect one of the following groups:

- I. Claims 11-14, draw to a hot-rolled steel sheet; and
- II. Claims 15-20, draw to a method of making a hot-rolled steel sheet.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, i.e., claims 11-14, without traverse, for prosecution in the above-identified application, and reserve the right to pursue the non-elected claims in one or more applications claiming priority from the present application.

Accordingly, the Restriction Requirement contained in the Office Action is now moot, and should therefore be withdrawn.

III. **CONCLUSION**

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite the prosecution of this application if any issues remain outstanding.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 24, 2007

By: 

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